

Stimulus funneled to 19th Ave.

By Rebecca Boysen
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— CLINTON — Congressman Bruce Braley paid a visit to Clinton city officials Wednesday to discuss the local impact of the \$787 billion federal economic stimulus bill.

Signed into law by President Barack Obama on Tuesday, the plan makes federal funding available for infrastructure projects that are shovel-ready and can begin within 120 days.

Braley, D-Iowa, reported that under the stimulus package, Iowa is projected to receive \$358 million. Updated figures show the bill is expected to create 37,000 jobs in Iowa, including 7,300 jobs in the 1st Congressional District.

"This is our challenge, to turn this economy around, and it starts here at the local level," Braley said. "The more we can do to use this money to create jobs and put people to work in Clinton, and repeat that throughout the First District, throughout the state of Iowa, and around the country, the more likely we are to turn around this stagnant economy and get people back where they want to be."

Clinton leaders plan to use the city's \$1.1 million share of the stimulus to help fund the extension of 19th Avenue North.

"Nineteenth Avenue North is a very important link to the expansion of Clinton on the western side," said Mayor Rodger Holm. "It is very important to the total economic development of the community."

Holm stated that the federal stimulus money will help complete the second phase of the three phase project. Construction is set to begin this spring.

"Our visits to Washington do pay off," Holm stated in an interview with the Herald. "That \$1.1 million is a good example of that."

Braley stated that other local infrastructure projects, such as the Lincolnway Railport and the sewer separation project, could be eligible for state funding as well.

"Any other opportunities for funding that we can find to address some of the critical infrastructure needs in the 1st District, we'll be working with you on a local basis and trying to identify what your priorities are," Braley said.

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Photos



Iowa Congressman Bruce Braley (center) meets with Clinton city leaders Wednesday to discuss the planned extension of 19th Avenue. Jerry Dahl/Clinton Herald